



Enforcement News

\$1 Million Civil Judgment Filed Against the City of Glendale For Underground Storage Tank Violations

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has reached a \$1 million settlement with the city of Glendale for alleged violations of regulations concerning storage of hazardous substances in underground storage tanks (UST) at 11 facilities owned by the city.

This lawsuit is the first enforcement action by the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement under the State Water Board's Government Owned and/or Operated Tank (GOT) initiative that started in 2010 with the assistance of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the second enforcement action by the State Water Board against a public entity for UST violations. The GOT initiative aims to level the playing field with respect to compliance and enforcement between privately and publicly owned and operated USTs.

State Water Board staff found that the city failed to have a designated operator perform monthly inspections and provide employee trainings at their six fire stations since 2005 until late 2010. The violation was corrected after being identified by State Water Board staff. Additional violations alleged included failure to conduct required testing in a timely manner and failure to maintain appropriate leak detection equipment.

Assistant Chief Counsel David Boyers with the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement said, "The requirement to have a designated operator in place is a critical part of the underground tank program, and the city's failure to have a designated operator for as long as it did is a serious violation. I'm pleased that the city has fixed the problem and thankful no harm to water quality occurred in this case. Ultimately, our goal is to protect water quality by preventing releases of hazardous substances to California's water. Imposing penalties for violations should create an incentive for the city to maintain compliance into the future so that the regulations can have their intended effect of keeping hazardous substances safely stored inside the tank."

Under the terms of the settlement, the city will pay \$192,500 in civil penalties within 30 days of entry of the judgment and \$192,500 as a Supplemental Environmental Project to conduct a Hexavalent Chromium Removal Technology Research Project. The remaining \$615,000 is suspended conditioned on the city maintaining compliance with the UST requirements specified in the judgment for a period of five years. In addition, the city will pay \$60,000 for reimbursement of enforcement costs.

C A L I F O R N I A E N V I R O N M E N T A L P R O T E C T I O N A G E N C Y



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A copy of the settlement, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, can be found on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml

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This lawsuit is the latest in a series of enforcement actions that the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement, represented by the California Attorney General's Office, has brought against violators of California's underground storage tank laws. A copy of the complaint, filed in Sacramento County Superior Court, can be found on the State Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml

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